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## Letters, 1846-1853. Call Number, Parkside SC 71

Moulton, Emeline M.

[s.l.]: [s.n.], [s.d.]

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Rochester June 14th. 1846.

Dear Aunt Dalinda

To day, being Sabbath day and not attending meeting I thought I would improve the afternoon in writing to you, as I expect to have an opportunity of sending letters by Stillman, as he intends to start for Cabot in about a week. Mother is getting well. she walked up to Aunt Abbys last Wednesday and staid all day, and Friday she came up and spent the day with me, so you see, she is a great deal better. but she cannot talk aboud but a very little yet, for her Lungs are very weak, but we think she is gaining, and will soon enjoy comfortable health. she is cheerful and contented, and was very glad to hear from you by Mr. McDuffe, and also very thankful for the Maple Sugar which you all sent. Father lives at home most of the time, and works on his farm. Franklin works at Mason Work with Mr. Simonds and is a first rate workman. Fidelity is teaching school at the Village, she expects to teach five or six months and has one dollar and seventy five cents per week. Helen lives at home and does the work, she is certainly as smart a girl for business as I ever saw. she and Fidelity are about my height, and a great deal heavier than I ever was. Uncle Josephs family are well. he still carries on our farm and probably will continue to do so until he gets ready to buy a farm for himself. Aunt Abbys health is good. William and Ellen attend school this summer and learn finely, the school is about three fourths of a mile from here. it is quite a walk for such little children but they enjoy it finely. I think they love each other as well as brother & sister.

They have always played together and are very much attached to each other. Emma Charlotte is a dear good little girl and we all love her very much. my little Emily is a smart child, which of course you would expect considering who her Mother is. well I think my girls are something pretty smart. think there are very few children of their age, that can go ahead of them. Nathaniel works at his trade and employs two journeymen this summer. he says he intends to go back to N<sup>o</sup> - before a great while, but for my part I am about discouraged we have talked about it so much. I tell you Aunt D it looks like a great undertaking to start such a journey with two children, and I do not expect I should be contented to go and leave them here, and beside that I should want to take them with me so that Grandfather and Grandmother could see them. you dont know Aunt Dalinda how anxious I am to go back to Dear Old Vermont, and have a good visit with you all - it sometimes seems as though I could not wait another month but must go immediately, but you know it must be very difficult for us to leave home to be gone so long, and I know not when we can make out to get there. but should we never see our native hills and Dear Friends again, they would always be remembered by us with the fondest affection, and should we never have the pleasure of meeting again on Earth, let us anticipate a joyfull meeting in Heaven where parting shall be known no more.

Amanda has given up the idea of going to Cabot this summer. and is going to be married. I know not how soon, but should not be surprised if it was within a fortnight. probably before

this letter reaches you, she will become Mrs George Gearly.  
Stillman was married the 3<sup>rd</sup> of April to Miss Mary Jane Jones  
she is a pretty woman and a good Methodist, and I expect S—  
is a Methodist too, for he was sprinkled by them last winter down  
in Illinois, and I have not heard him mention, Universalism  
or Religion since he came home, so I conclude he is ashamed  
of his preaching. I wrote to Surrintha last spring soon after I  
recieved your letter, but have not yet recieved one from her.  
I should be very happy to have S— come here to Wisconsin  
to live, for then I should think you would be almost sure  
to come. Aunt Abby would be delighted to see her. please  
give my love to her for I do not know as I shall have time  
to write her before Stillman goes back.

I sh<sup>d</sup> send a lace cap which I have worn some,  
and which I wish Dear Grandmother to accept from me.  
I should get something better to send if I could have an opportunity  
of going to the store this week — but as it is, I wish Dear Grandmother  
to accept it, with many thanks from Nathaniel and myself for  
the sugar and apples she sent to us — I shall send Lucia Ann  
and Delia Marandé and Betsy Adams, some Calico to piece up  
with their patch work, and shall if possible get some  
books to send to the boys.

Frederick Mr Duffe has not yet bought a farm but thinks  
of buying one only a few miles from us — he and his wife  
visited here and at Fathers last week. we were very glad to see  
them because they could tell us so much about Cabot people.  
Mr Emson lives about four miles west of us, in the  
neighborhood with John Hopkins. George Hoyt is going to  
be married in about three weeks to Miss Susan Coombs —  
Aunt Priscilla has a Daughter, born about the middle of Apr  
Give my love to my dear Grandparents, Uncles, Aunts and  
Cousins — I intend to write to Aunt Charlotte, if S— does  
not tick out about going. please send me a letter by him if

possible, and if not, please write the first and every opportunity.  
Excuse mistakes for I have written in much haste. and  
Emely is running around the room and bumping her head  
against the table. to help me along with my writing

Yours Affectionately  
Emeline M. Moulton.

Mrs. Dalinda R. Webster.

Grandma must not think strange because I send  
a cap which I have worn, because it is the best I  
have to send -- I have concluded to send Lucia Ann  
and Delia, some Calies for Aprons - please write if you receive it.

Mrs. Dalinda R. Webster.

Exot Vermont.

1846, June 16

Dear Grandmother,

My mother is not quite able to write yet, she wishes me to write a few lines for her, as we had an opportunity to send directly to Cabot, Mother has been quite feeble ever since last December, but is now quite smart, she visited Aunt Abby and Emeline last week, and took dinner with Aunt ~~Abby~~ Abby today. It is seven weeks yesterday since she bled any, and we are in hopes she is now fast recovering, Father told her she might visit Vermont this summer, but she had rather wait until she can talk more. We are the rest of us all well, Mother and I live alone this summer, excepting a little boy that Father has taken to keep until he is one and twenty, Father is out painting, Franklin is at work at his trade, he has his two dollars a day, and work enough at that, he and Mr Symonds work in company, Fidelity is teaching school in Rochester <sup>village</sup> she has between 50 and 60 scholars, she has now kept 2 months and ~~it~~ has 4 more to keep, she has 14 shillings a week. So you see I am Bobs and all hands here at home. The large paper we send is from Franklin to Grandfather, The knitting sheathe, mother sends to Grandma, the calicoes with it are pieces of her dresses, for Grandma Aunt D and aunt C, The next largest roll are pieces of my dresses, for Grandma and cousin D, the other roll is for Rosetta, The little singing books, mother sends, one for Lucia and Delia, one for Charley and Betty, one for Lucia and Julia Russell, and says they must learn to sing to Grandpa and Grandma but I must stop and write to cousin D. 76 M 76

Dear Cousin,

I now seat myself a few moments to answer that long letter you sent me by Mr Mc Duffe. We received all the things you sent us, and were very much obliged to you for them. We are having very warm weather now, and the crops look well. We have a great variety of flowers in our garden, besides numerous wild flowers in the fields. We have 7 kinds of roses in our garden, besides the native rose which grows spontaneously every where here. We <sup>have</sup> ~~between~~ <sup>and</sup> 20 30 kinds of house plants, some of them very large. There are any quantity of strawberry berries in our garden, they are the English strawberry they are the nicest I ever saw, last Sunday I picked one that girted <sup>and</sup> between  $3\frac{1}{4}$  inches. We had 86 peach trees blossom this year, the most of them have peaches on them. Amanda Moulton visited here this afternoon, the next time she comes I expect it will be Amanda Zearly. F and I commenced going to school the 23 of November, and went 4 weeks, when mother was taken sick we both came home she stayed 2 weeks and then went back, and I stayed at home, but shall go next winter, it was at the Burlington Academy, only  $3\frac{1}{2}$  miles from home. Fidelity came home every Saturday night, we had an excellent school, the preceptors name was Wilcox, an old Bachelor. They are making great calculations here, upon the 4 of July same as usual, they have a ball the 3 and a celebration the 4. the presents we sent you are very small, but we put so much into our dresses that we do not have any large

pieces left, We should have got some things and sent,  
but we did not know of Stitmans departure until last night  
Tell ~~A~~ Surintha that I want she should hurry and come  
out here, for I am very fond of Bakers Bread, But I  
must stop for it is almost pitch dark, I milked a cow  
night before last, for the first time in my life, I like  
the sport very much, You would not think by my  
writing that I had been to school lately, but I have not  
written but a very little since we came here as it is not  
fashionable to write in school here, Write to me every  
opportunity, and send papers often, My love to all the friends  
and acquaintances, Yours in the greatest haste  
Helen Hoyt

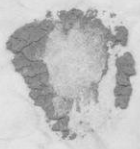
June 16 1844



1846

Mrs. Elizabeth Kuyper

Carroll, Pa.



Tuesday April 16<sup>th</sup> 1850.

Dear Aunt Palinda, Thinking you would perhaps like to hear from me once more, I will improve this evening in writing to you. My family are well and Mother also. Helen has attended school at Racine this winter, but is now at home. she will teach our school this summer, <sup>next</sup> commencing in two weeks, teaches four months at two dollars per week, so there will be none at home this summer, except Mother, Frank and Eunice. Mrs Bearly visited me last week, Emely is living with her in Mukwanago, but is going to teach school in this town this summer, teaches four months at 1.50 per week, she seems to be very well contented in Wisconsin, but is waiting with great impatience to see her Mother. We shall expect to see Mother in June. We are also expecting Uncle Henrys folks this summer. we recieved a letter from him in February informing us that there was a prospect of his selling his place. we answered his letter the same week that we recieved it, and Franklin has written to him since. we shall be very glad to see them.

Aunt Abigail and family are well and send much love to you. We have recieved two letters from Father, within two weeks. the first was written January 6<sup>th</sup>. he did not arrive at the mines in California until October 19<sup>th</sup>, seven months after he left home. had a very hard journey, much harder than any of us thought it could be. they lost nearly all of their oxen and waggons but got through at last just before the rainy season commenced without money or provisions. settled on the first gold mine they could find and built them a comfortable log house for

winter, and dug a little gold to pay for provisions. but by this time the rain had increased so much that the roads were impassible, and they were so far from the city, that provisions bore the most extravagant prices. for flour, they paid 1.50 per pound pork 1.25 per pound. coffee and sugar 1.00 per pound, tea 4.00 and other things accordingly. they could get about one ounce of gold per day for each man, and it took every cent of that to buy provisions. the Rochester people separated, most of them located on the Uba river, a few of them went to the city, and Father and Hiram Kellogg remained on Feather river. Father had been sick four weeks, he caught a severe cold by sleeping on the wet ground at night without a shelter. suffered much with pain in his head and cold sweats, but was getting much better. Hiram was afflicted with the rheumatism, but the rainy season would soon be over, and they were in hopes they should then do better. most of the Rochester emigrants have been doing well some of them have sent home drafts for three hundred dollars but they could obtain their provisions much easier than Father could, and had been blessed with good health.

The other letter was dated February 16th. he wrote that his own health was good, but Hiram was Dead, he died February 13th. his rheumatism had increased until his feet and limbs were swollen even to bursting. he could not lie in bed at all, and Father made him a large chair which he occupied day and night for the last five weeks of his life. he was unable to help himself at all, and Father lifted him from his chair for the last four weeks, which had to be done with the greatest possible care. he had a good Dr, who attended him daily for four weeks, but could not save him. he suffered greatly, and

when the pain left him, Dropsy and Mortification immediately took place, and he lived only two days. it must have been a sad time for Father to see him Die, there in that lonely cabin, they were the best of friends, but friendship could not save him. He had lived with us more than two years before he went to California, and we loved him as our own brothers and deeply mourn his Death. he was an excellent young man I have written to his Mother in Hardwick, to inform her of his sad bereavement, and I fear it will be a heavy blow to her, heavier than she can bear. Father had not made any thing more than his board, owing to rainy weather, his own poor health and Hiram's sickness, but the weather was then pleasant and as warm as June. the rainy season was through and he was in hopes of better fortune, as soon as he could get a few hundred dollars, to spare after his return home he would start for home without delay. and I think he will return, contented with Wisconsin. we are very anxious to see him, it is more than a year since he left us.

Nathaniel had the California fever this winter, but I do not think he will ever have it again. I should think there had forty of our townsmen gone to California this spring, by the same route which Father traveled, but they have gone with Horses and Mules instead of open, and will I hope get through in better season. Where is Parintha? I should write to her if I knew where to direct a letter, give my love to her and tell her to write to me. Much love to my dear Grandparents, tell them I shall come back and see them as soon as possible. love to Aunt Charlotte and all of the other friends and cousins. Please write to me very soon. Your affectionate niece. Emeline.

Mother and sisters send love to you all.

I enclose cards for  
yourself, Purvinttha  
and my Grandparents.  
should be much  
pleased to receive  
yours - Esmeline.



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Mrs. Dulinda R. Webster.

Cadet Caledonia Co

Vermont

Rochester April 19<sup>th</sup> 1850.

Ever Dear Sister,  
I am happy in being once more permitted to write to you. Little did I think when we parted last fall, that so few letters would be exchanged between us during the winter, but knowing it to be something of a task for me to write, & thinking it is probably the same with you, I hope we shall be willing to forget, & forgive, the neglect if so it is called & do better in future. My health is good as usual, & has been through the winter, oh how often have I wished during the long lonesome winter that I could visit the dear friends in Cabot again, & help pass off the wearisome hours that I have endured, (not enjoyed) although I have a good home, & kind children, around me, but still there is an aching void these things can never fill. I thought before we heard from Wm, could I but hear that they were safely through California, my mind would be more at ease, but this I find is not the case, the more we hear, the greater is my anxiety — we received a letter from Wm bearing date of Jan 6 which we received April 3, saying that he had been sick about four weeks but was then better, just able to write. He took a violent cold by lying out on the cold wet ground when he could not procure shelter for the night, & in two days was taken with a severe pain in his head, & cold sweats. He was never as sick before. Mr Moulton had a letter from Hiram Kellogg at the same time which said that he was well except was troubled with the rheumatism a little, he thought if a man had a home he better stay there than to go to California. in less than two weeks we had another from Wm dated Feb the 16 saying that Hiram was dead, he was subject to rheumatic complaints I think from a child, he was taken sick the first

of Hans could not lay down at all. Wm made him a great chair which he kept for the last five weeks, they had to lift him with the greatest care possible, his feet & legs swelled even to bursting. two days before he died, the pain left his limbs then mortification took place & Feb 13. they closed his eyes in death. he wished Wm to write to his father in Haverwick, & his brother in St Louis. they have made nothing yet but their boards, they have probably seen times that would try men's souls. It was late when they got through, they lost most of their cattle before they got there, & the rainy season commenced in a few days. by the time they had dug a little gold to buy provisions with, flour was 200 dollars per barrel, pork 200, & other things accordingly. they built them a comfortable log house on the south branch of Feather river 100. miles from Sacramento City Upper California — where they have spent the winter. Wm says unless a man can dig more than one ounce a day which is about an average day's work he cant save one cent. He thinks he shall not be able to get back as soon as he told of coming, which was two years from the time he left, he says he never knew how to appreciate a good home & kind family untill since he left home, sweet home, for California. I am keeping house now for Fidelia, & consequently alone. She & her man have gone to Southport to spend a few days with the friends there, Helen is now at home, but expects to commence school a week from next monday for the summer. Abby & her family well, also Emeline & her little ones. Her tot is quite healthy since she had the whooping cough & seems to grow well; I might say the friends are all well for such is the case far as I know Priscilla is at Esy Hoyts they are talking of going east this summer & she will stay with Martha whilst they are gone. I suppose you are now in the midst of sugar making, give my love to your children

& tell them to eat some sugar for Aunt L. the months of Jan. & Feb. were warm & springlike here, since that, cold & backward, more like winter than spring, I want when you answer this, you should write about all of your children, & where they are, & about all of the friends & acquaintance, I should be glad to hear from all, write if they hear from James Marsh, & where he is, how they get along there &c. how did Mrs. Wheeler get along after her operation. is Hector McLean living. where is Lucretia, and so on. are you a going to leave our Dear aged parents this spring or do you stay with them another year, that this may be the case is the sincere wish of my heart do all you can my dear sister, to make them happy, & you will have your reward if not in this world, you surely will in that which is to come, give them my warmest love, tell them I still hope to visit them again. When I was at Cabot mother gave me her quart tumbler, but I could not fetch it, if she is yet willing to spare it, & will send it by brother H, I should be very thankful, & think much of it for the givers sake, please write how long she has had it. I wish you to say to brother Henry, if he is intending to come into this country this season it may be an advantage to him to get here early as he can, in case he should not get the favor he has in view (which I think is some what uncertain), as a man in this country cannot deed his land away without the signature of his wife, & they are Irish, it is hard finding out by them what they intend to do, but what I wish to say is, that the school sections in Racine Co are to be sold in June next sale to commence the third day of that month. Give my love to all that enquire after me, tell your husband & brother Rufus, next time I come to C, I will <sup>try</sup> remember to say a good by to them but my feelings were such when I reached the stage that I entirely forgot it until it was too late, presume they will forgive the neglect.

Abby Caroline & Helen send much love to Grand pa & ma aunts & Cousins



In looking over my sheet I see that I did not tell you that when said  
he would write every month he stays there if so we will let you  
know with what success from time to time & now sister I do answer this  
soon dont do as I have done Abby <sup>says</sup> if sister C has not named her babe  
she may call her Mary Abby it is a name that was sent her from Maine

I am as ever your affectionate sister Lucia R. Hoyt



1850

Miss Delinda Weston

Fabot

Benning

10

Aunt Delinda,

Mr. Simonds says mother has made a mistake in  
regard to the land sale, for it will commence the last of May  
and close the 3rd day of June. Mr. S - thinks much he can get  
the farm he wants if he was to ask Mr. Hute himself, for ~~he~~ <sup>he</sup> dont  
like his banker friends, so pretends to us, he would rather ~~return~~ <sup>stay</sup> here.  
Where is Ora Hoeman, love to all, write soon. Affectionately yours, Fidelity

Roxchester Maine Co wis Feb 20<sup>th</sup>

Dear cousin George I now seat myself  
to write you a few lines, it is now snowing here  
quite hard, we shall soon have good sleighing if it  
keeps on snowing as it does now, I go to school and  
study Geography, Arithmetic, and writing, we have a very  
good school this winter, we have just met with quite  
a loss, one of our best cows have died, she was sick but  
a few days, she left a calf 3 weeks old, she died with  
the disease of the heart. good judges of cows said that  
she was worth about 30 dollars, quite a loss for us, our  
folks are very well except very bad colds which is the  
general complaint here, is Byron at home this  
winter? do you go to school this winter and  
if so do you have a good school? tell grandmothers  
that I should like to see her very much, if you see  
Charley Adams tell him that I should like to see  
him very much, tell Uncle Rufus that I am  
nearly weaned, my love to all the folks, you will  
write me as soon <sup>as you get a</sup> from your cousin

I have never heard one word from Mother & folks since I was  
born she tell me some thing about Dear sister Susan  
for I will keep dark dont know but her see any more of my letter  
you need not like the letter I have made any inquiry about them  
is kindly answered to her letter  
Wm. H. C. Gaffam,

Feb. 20, 1853

Dear Sister Webster

As Willie has written a short scrawl to George, I thought I would write you some in answer to your kind letter of Nov 28, I was very glad to hear from you and all of our Dear friends I feel very anxious to hear again, for you then wrote Mothers health was poor, I expected then to hear from Sister Charlotte soon, but have heard nothing and can you tell me the reason? are they sick, or have they moved to parts unknown, or has the snow blocked them in so they have no communication with the world at large I have written her this winter when Willie wrote to Charlie perhaps they did not receive it, I was truly glad to hear Dear Mother was with you again, hope her health is better but when a person arrives at the age of Mother, and the Constitution broken down with labor, we ought not to expect good health which is so desirable, but try and be reconciled if we are able to be around and have our faculties remain unimpaired so much so that we can read and converse with our friends, which is one of the greatest blessings given to us mortals.

We are all in the enjoyment of good health at present although we have had severe colds and coughs this winter, Joseph has been almost sick for the last month but his

Cough is now better, our winter has been a very bad one on account of so much warm weather, we have had but one week of sleighing, there is perhaps  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch of snow now on the ground, our cold weather began earlier in the fall than usual, which makes quite a demand for Hay, it is now  $\$1$ , per ton which is called high Grain of all kinds are high here this season, wheat has been a dollar a bushel, but is not so high as that now corn is 56 cents per bushel, crops were very good never better and prices being high it makes Farmers feel first rate, The general topic of conversation here now is, Railroad, I am not sure but each man will have one to his door. Brother Tom and wife and Brother Henry and wife visited me on Thursday, and helped us eat a large chicken pie, and if Mother and yourself and Brother Honey and Sister Charlotte and husband could have been here I should have thought my company was perfect, as it was, we had a very pleasant time; at Christmas we were all at Sister Lucias, but have never met at Brother H — Andrew is teaching this winter, Rosetta is at home as usual, Emily's babe begins to walk — Helen is with Fidelia now but she makes it her home at her Father's she hears from her Husband often once in 2 weeks she has received  $\$150$ , and has lost  $\$100$ , the check did not come, she has a pretty babe and she loves it dearly, Mr Simonds and wife will attend the worlds Fair the coming summer

do answer this as soon as possible

My health is much better now than before I weaned  
 George, my mouth is well, she that was Emily Houlton -  
 Mrs Winslip, is suffering sadly with a sore mouth she has  
 a son 5 weeks old, Mrs Houlton lives with her, Emeline and  
 family are well for aught I know, I dont often see her  
 we live five miles apart - I do feel very sorry that I -  
 and husband are not here, I thought we should see them  
 here sure in the fall, but hope Mr Baker will better  
 himself there; are they in Greensboro now and is there  
 more than one Post Office in town, I have thought of  
 writing to them for some time, but have delayed so doing  
 but think I shall soon, when you see Surintha tell I her  
 I am waiting with all due patience for a letter from her -  
 tell her I think she cannot have more to do than myself  
 if she does she has to be pretty busy, How are all the good  
 folks in Cabot this winter, should like to hear from and  
 about them all, how does Ganny and her babies get along  
 are either of Mr Lyford's girls married, on Mr Walbridge  
 tell me about Elizabeth is she at home, has Laura Perkins  
 any more babies did she pick as many raspberries last fall  
 as the year previous, where is James and Lydia my love  
 to all the folks on your street - I suppose you would like  
 to hear about the little one, the three oldest go to school  
 Henry has learned to read his a, b, c, this winter and George  
 has learned to walk and talk some, we think he is pretty  
 smart - when you write the next time tell some one  
 of the girls to write and put into the letter for I would  
 like to hear from them and about their school and what  
 they study, yesterday was Emmas birth day she sends much  
 love to Abby and Grandma she often feels bad because she  
 shall never see Grandma, remember Joseph and myself in  
 love to your husband and family, and accept a large share  
 for your self and Dear Mother, how I do wish I could visit  
 you again the coming summer so to see my Dear Mother once more  
 from your sis in love Abigail

Rochester June 14<sup>th</sup>. 1846

Dear Aunt Dalinda

Today, being Sabbath day and not attending meeting I thought I would improve the afternoon in writing to you, as I expect to have an opportunity of sending letters by Stillman, as she intends to start for Cabot in about a week. Mother is getting well. She walked up to Aunt Abbys last Wednesday and staid all day, and Friday she came up and spent the day with me, so you see, she is a great deal better but she cannot talk aloud but a very little yet, for her Lungs are very weak, but we think she is gaining, and will soon enjoy comfortable health. she is cheerful and contented, and was very glad to hear from you by Mr McDuffie, and also very thankful for the Maple Sugar which you all sent.

Father lives at home most of the time, and works on his farm. Franklin works at Mason Work with Mr Simonds and is a "first rate" workman. Fidelia is teaching school at the Village. She expects to teach five or six months and has one dollar and seventy five cents per week. Helen lives at home and does the work. She is certainly as smart a girl for business as I ever saw. she and Fidelia are about my height, and a great deal heavier than I ever was. Uncle Josephs family are well. He still carries on our farm and probably will continue to do so until he gets ready to buy a farm for himself. Aunt Abbys health is good. William and Ellen attend school this summer and learn finely; the school is about three fourths of a mile from here. it is quite a walk for such little children but they enjoy it finely. I think they love each other as well as brother & Sister. They have always played together and are very much attached to each other. Emesna Charlotte is a dear good little girl and we all love her very much. my little Emely is a smart child, which of

course you would expect considering who her Mother is. well I think my girls are something pretty smart. think there are very few children of their age, that can "go ahead" of them. Nathaniel works at his trade and employs two journeyman this summer. he says he intends to go back to Vt. before a great while, but for my part I am about discouraged we have talked about it so much. I tell you Aunt D- it looks like a great undertaking to start such a journey with two children, and I do not expect I should be contented to go and leave them here, and beside that I should want to take them with me so that grandfather and grandmother could see them. You don't know Aunt Dalinda how anxious I am to go back to Dear Old Vermont, and have a good visit with you all-it sometimes seems as though I could not wait another month but must go immediately. but you know it must be very difficult for us to leave home to be gone so long, and I know not when we can make out to get there. but should we never see our native hills and Dear Friends again, they would always be remembered by us with the fondest affection, and should we never have the pleasure of meeting again on Earth, let us anticipate a joyful meeting in Heaven where parting shall be known no more.

Amanda has given up the idea of going to Cabob this summer, and is going to be married. I know not how soon, but should not be surprised if it was within a fortnight. Probably before this letter reaches you, she will become Mrs George Yearly-- Stillman was married the 23<sup>rd</sup> of April to Miss Mary Jane Jones. she is a pretty woman and a good Methodist, and I expect S— is a Methodist too, for he was sprinkled by them last winter down in Illinois, and I have not heard him mention, Universalism or Religion since he came home, so I conclude he is ashamed of his preaching. I wrote to Surrintha last spring soon after I received your letter, but have not yet received one from her. I should be very

happy to have S--- come here to Wisconsin to live, for then I should think you would be almost sure to come. Aunt Abby would be delighted to see her. Please give my love to her for I do not know as I shall have time to write her before Stillman goes back.

I shall send a lace cap which I have worn some, and which I wish Dear Grandmother to accept from me. I should get something better to send if I could have an opportunity of going to the store this week-- but as it is, I wish Dear Grandma to accept it, with many thanks from Nathaniel and myself for the sugar and apples she sent to us-- I shall send Lucia Ann and Delia Maranda and Betsey Adams, some Calico to piece up with their patch work, and shall if possible get some books to send to the boys.

Frederick Mc Duffee has not yet bought a farm but thinks of buying one only a few miles from us-- he and his wife visited here and at Fathers last week. we were very glad to see them because they could tell us so much about Cabot People. Mr Ensign lives about four miles west of us in the neighborhood with John Hopkins. George Hoyt is going to be married in about three weeks to Miss Susan Coombs-- Aunt Priscilla has a Daughter, born about the middle of April. Give my love to my dear grandparents, Uncles, Aunts and Cousins—I intend to write to Aunt Charlotte, if S-- does not tick out about going. please send me a letter by him if possible, and if not, please write the first and every opportunity.

Excuse mistakes for I have written in much haste, and Emely is running around the room and bumping her head against the table. to help me along with my writing-----

Yours Affectionately

Emeline M Moulton

Mrs. Dalinda R Webster



Grandma must not think strange because I send a cap which I have worn, because it is the best I have to send—I have concluded to send Lucia Ann and Delia, some calico for Aprons---please write if you receive it.

1846, June 16

Dear Grandmother,

As mother is not quite able to write yet, she wishes me to write a few lines for her, as we had an opportunity to send directly to Cabot, Mother has been quite feeble ever since last December, but is now quite smart, she visited Aunt Abby and Emeline last week, and took dinner with Aunt Abby today. It is seven weeks yesterday since she bled any, and we are in hopes she is now fast recovering, Father told her she might visit Vermont this summer, but she had rather wait until she can talk more. We are the rest of us all well. Mother and I live alone this summer, excepting a little boy the Father has taken to keep until he is one and twenty. Father is out painting. Franklin is at work at his trade, he has his two dollars as day, and work enough at that, he and Mr Symonds work in company. Fidelia is teaching school in Rochester Village she has between 50 and 60 scholars, she has now kept 2 months and has 4 more to keep, she has 14 shillings a week. So you see I am Boss and all hands here at home. The large paper we send is from Franklin to Grandfather. The knitting Sheathe, mother sends to grandma, to calicoes with it are pieces of her dresses, for grandma Aunt D and aunt C. The next largest roll are pieces of my dresses, for Grandma and cousin D. the other roll is for Rosetta. The little singing books, mother sends one for Lucia and Delia, one for Charley and Betty, one for Lucia and Julia Russell, and says they must harn to sing to grandpa and grandma but I must stop and write to cousin D. H M H

Dear Cousin,

I now seat my self a few moments to answer that long letter you sent me by Mr McDuffen. We received all the things you sent us, and were very much obliged to you for them. We are having very warm weather now, and the crops look well. We have a great variety of flowers in our garden, besides numerous wild flowers in the fields. We have 7 kinds of roses in our garden, besides the native rose which grows spontaneously every where here. We have between 20 and 30 kinds of house plants, some of them very large. There are any granting of strawberries in our garden, they are the English strawberry they are the nicest I ever saw. last Sunday I picked one that girted between 3and 4 inches. WE had 81 peach trees blossom this year, the most of them have peaches on them. Amanda Moulten visited her this afternoon, the next time she comes I expect I twill be Amanda Yearly. F and I commenced going to school that 22 of November, and went 4 weeks, when mother was taken sick we both came home she stayed 2 weeks and then went back and I stayed at home, but shall go next winter, it was at the Burlington Academy, only 3 ½ miles from home. Fidelia came home every Saturday night, we had an excellent school, the preceptors name was Wilcox, an old Bachelдор. They are making great calenlations here, upon the 4 of July some as usual, they have a hall the 3 and celebration the 4. the presents we sent you are very small but we put so much into our dresses that we do not have any large pieces left. We should have got some things and sent, but we did not know of Stilmans departure until last night. Tell Surintha that I want she should hurry and come out here, for I am very fond of Bakers Bread, But I must stop for it is almost pitch dark. I milked a cow night before last for the first time in my life. I like the sport very much. You would not think

by my writing that I had been to school lately, but I have not written but a very little since we came here as it is not fashionable to write in school here. Write to me every opportunity, and send papers often, My love to all the friends and acquaintences. Yours in the greatest haste

Helen Hoyt

June 16, 1846

Tuesday April 16<sup>th</sup> 1850

Dear Aunt Dalinda, Thinking you would perhaps like to hear from me once more, I will improve this Evening in writing to you. My family are well and Mothers also. Helen has attended school at Racine this winter, but is now at home. She will teach our school this summer, comme in two weeks, teaches four months at two dollars per week. So there will be none at home this summer, except Mother, Frank and Eunice. Mrs Bearly visited me last week, Emely is living with her in Mukwonigo, but is going to teach school in this town this summer, teaches four months at 1.50 for week. She seems to be very well contented in Wisconsin, but is waiting with great impatience to see her Mother. We shall expect to see Mother in June. We are also expecting Uncle Henrys folks this summer. We received a letter from him in February informing us that there was a prospect of his selling his place. We answered his letter the same week that we received it and Franklin has written to him since. We shall be very glad to see them.

Aunt Abigail and family are well and send much love to you. We have received two letters from Father, within two weeks. the first was written January 6<sup>th</sup>, he did not arrive at the mines in California until October 19<sup>th</sup>, seven months after he left home. had a very hard journey, much harder than any of us thought it could be. they lost nearly all of their oxen and waggons but got through at last just before the rainy season commenced without money or provisions. settled on the first gold mine they could find and built them a comfortable log house for winter, and dug a little gold to pay for provisions. but by this time the rain had increased so much that the roads were impassible, and they were so far from the city, that provisions bore the most extravagant prices, for flour, they paid

1.50 per pound pork 1.25 per pound. coffee and sugar 1.00 per pound. tea 4.00 and other things accordingly. they could get about one ounce of gold per day for each man, and it took every cent of that to buy provisions. the Rochester people seperated, most of them located on the Uba river, a few of them went to the City, and Father and Hiram Kellogg remained on Feather river, Father had been sick four weeks, he caught a severe cold by sleeping on the wet ground at night without a shelter. suffered much with pain in his head and cold sweats, but was getting much better Hiram was afflicted with the rheumatism, but the rainy season would soon be over, and they were in hopes they should then do better. Most of the Rochester emigrants have been doing well some of them have sent home drafts for three hundred dollars but they could obtain then provisions much easier than Father could, and had been blessed with good health.

The other letter was dated February 16<sup>th</sup>. he wrote that his own health was good, but Hiram was Dead, he died February 13<sup>th</sup>. his rheumatism had increased until his feet and limbs were swollen even to bursting. he could not lie in bed at all, and Father made him a large chair which he occupied day and night for the last five weeks of his life. he was unable to help himself at all, and Father lifted him from his chair for the last four weeks, which had to be done with the greatest possible care, he had a good Dr. who attended him daily for four weeks, but could not save him. he suffered greatly, and when the pain left him, Dropsy and Mortification immediately took place, and he lived only two days. it must have been a sad time for Father to see him Die, there in that lonely cabin, they were the best of friends, but friendship could not save him. He had lived with us more than two years before he went to California, and we loved him as our own brother and deeply mourn his Death. he was an excellent young man I have written to his Mother in

Hardwick, to inform her of her sad bereavement, and I fear it will be a heavy blow to her, heavier than she can bear. Father had not made anything more than his board, owing to rainy weather, his own poor health and Hiram's sickness, but the weather was then pleasant and as warm as June. The rainy season was through and he was in hopes of better fortune, as soon as he could get a few hundred dollars, to spare after his return home he would start for home without delay. And I think he will return, contented with Wisconsin. we are very anxious to see him, it is more than a year since he left us. Nathaniel had the California fever this winter, but I do not think he will ever have it again. I should think there had forty of our townsmen gone to California this spring. by the same route which Father traveled, but they have gone with Horses and Mules instead of oxen, and will I hope get through in better season. Where is Surrintha? I should write to her if I knew where to direct a letter. Give my love to her and tell her to write to me. much love to my dear Grandparents, tell them I shall come back and see them as soon as possible. love to Aunt Charlotte and all of the other friends and cousins. Please write to me very soon. Your affectionate niece. Emeline.

Mother and sisters send love to you all.

Rochester April 19<sup>th</sup> 1850

Ever Dear Sister

I am happy in being once more

permitted to write to you. Little did I think when we parted last fall, that so few letters would be exchanged between us during the winter, but knowing it to be something of a task for me to write, & thinking it is probably the same with you, I hope we shall be willing to forget, & forgive, the neglect if so it is called & do better in the future. My health is good as usual, & has been through the winter, oh how often have I wished during the long lonesome winter that I could visit the dear friends in Cabot again, & help pass off the wearisome hours that I have endured, (not enjoyed, although I have a good home, & kind children, around me, but still there is an acheing side these things can never fill. I thought before we heard from Wm, could I but hear that they were safely through California, my mind would be more at ease, but this I find is not the case, the move we hear, the greater is my anxiety\_\_\_ \_\_\_ we received a letter form Wm bearing date of Jan 6 which we received April 3, saying that he had been sick about four weeks but was then better, just able to write. He took a violent cold by lying out on the cold wet ground when he could not find shelter for the night, & in two days was taken with a severe pain in his head, & cold sweats. He was never as sick before. Ann Moulten had a letter form Hiram Kellogg at the same time which said that he was well except was troubled with the rheumatism a little, he thought if a man had a home he better stay there than to go to California. In less than two weeks we had another from Wm dated Feb the 16 saying that Hiwam was dead. he was subject to rheumatic complaints I think from a child. He was taken sick the first of Jan. could not lay down at all. Wm made him a



great chair which he kept for the last five weeks, they had to lift him with the greatest care possible, his feet & legs swelled even to bursting. Two days before he died, the pain left his limbs then mortification took place & Feb 13 they closed his eyes in death. he wished Wm. to write to his father in Hardwick, & his brother in St. Louis. they have made nothing yet but their board, they have probably seen times that would try mens souls. It was late when they got through, they lost most of their cattle before they got there, & the rainy season commenced in a few days. by the time they had dug a little gold to buy provisions with, flow was 220 dollars per barrel, pork 200, & other things accordingly. they built them a comfortable log house on the south branch of Feather river 100 miles from Sacramento City Upper California \_\_\_\_\_ where they have spent the winter. Wm says unless a man can dig more than one ounce a day which is about an average days work he cant save one cent, He thinks he shall not be able to get back as soon as he told of coming, which was two years from the time he left, he says he never knew how to appreciate a good home & kind family until since he left home, sweet home, for California. I am keeping house now for Fidelia, & consequently alone. She & her man have gone to Southport to spend a few days with the friends there. Helen is now at home, but expects to commence school a week from next Monday for the summer. Abby & her family well, also Emeline & her little ones. Then tot is quite healthy since she had the whooping cough & seems to grow well. I might say the friends are all well for such is the case far as I know Priscilla is at Esq. Hoyts they are talking of going east this summer & she will stay with Martha whilst they are gone. I suppose you are now in the midst of sugar making, give my love to your children & tell them to eat some sugar for Aunt L. the months of Jan. & Feb. were warm & springlike here, since that, cold & backward.

more like winter than spring, I want when you answer this, you should write about all of your children, & where they are, & about all of the friends & acquaintances, I should be glad to hear from all, write if they hear from James March, & where he is, how they get along there. How did Mrs Wheeler get along after her operation. Is Hector McLean living. Where is Lucnetia and so on. Are you a going to leave our Dear aged parents this spring or do you stay with them another year, that this may be the case is the sincere wish of my heart do all you can my dear sister, to make them happy, & you will have your reward if not in this world, you surely will in that which is to come. give them my warmest love, tell them I still hope to visit them again. When I was at Cabot mother gave me her quart tumbler, but I could not fetch it, if she is yet willing to spare it, & will send it by brother H, I should be very thankful, & think much of it for the givers sake, please write how long she has had it. I wish you to say to brother Henry, if he is intending to come into this country this season, it may be an advantage to him to get the farm he has in view (which I think is some what uncertain) as a man in this country cannot deed his land away without the signature of his wife, & they are Irish, it is hard finding out by them what they intend to do, but what I wish to say is that the school sections in Racine Co. are to be sold in June next sale to commence the third day of that month. Give my love to all that enquire after me, tell your husband & brother Rufus, next time I come to C, I will try & remember to say a good by to them but my feelings were such when I reached the stage that I entirely forgot it untill it was to late, presume they will forgive the neglect. In looking over my sheet I see that I did not tell you that Wm said he would write every month he stays there if so we will let you know with what success from to time to time & now sister D do answer this soon don't do as I have done Abby says if

sister C has not named her babe she may call her Mary Abby it is a name that was sent here from Maine.

I am as ever your affectionate sister                      Lucia R. Hoyt

Aunt Delinda,

Mr. Simonds says mother has made a mistake in regard to the land sale, for it will commence the last day of May and close the 3<sup>rd</sup> day of June. Mr. S thinks uncle H can get the farm he wants If he was to ask Mr Hute himself, for Hute don't like his Banker friends, so pretends to us, he would rather remain here. Where is Ora Herman. Love to all Write soon. Affectionately your Fidelia.

Abby Caroline & Helen send much love to grandpa & ma aunts & cousins.

1853

Rochester Racine Co wis Feb 20<sup>th</sup>

Dear cousin George I now seat myself to write you a few lines, it is now snowing here quite hard, we shall soon have good sleighing if it keeps on snowing as it does now, I go to school and study Geography, Arithmetic, and writing, we have a very good school this winter we have just met with quite a loss, one of our best cows have died, she was sick but a few days, she left a calf 3 weeks old, she died with the disease of the heart. good judges of cows said that she was worth about 50 dollars, quite a loss for us, our folks are very well except very bad colds which is a general complaint here, is Byron at home this winter? do you go to school this winter and if so do you have a good school? tell grandmother that I should like to see her very much, if you see Charley Adams tell him that I should like to see him very much, tell Uncle Rufas that I am nearly weaned, my love to all the folks, you must write me as soon as you get this, from your cousin

Wm. He. Graffam

Feb. 20, 1853

Dear Sister Webster

As Willie has written a short scrawl to George, I thought I would write you some in answer to you kind letter of Nov 25, I was very glad to hear from you and all of our Dear friends. I feel very anxious to hear again, for you then wrote mothers health was poor, I expected then to hear from Sister Charlotte soon, but have heard nothing and can you tell me the reason? are they sick, or have they moved to parts unknown, or has the snow blocked them in so they have no communication with the world at large I have written her this winter when Willie wrote to Charlie perhaps they did not receive it, I was truly glad to hear Dear Mother was with you again, hope her health is better but when a person arrives at the age of mother, and the constitution broken down with labor, we ought not to expect good health which is so desinable, but try and be reconciled if we are able to be around and have our faculties remain unimpaired so much so that we can read and converse with our friends, which is one of the greatest blessings give to us mortals \_\_\_\_\_

We are all in the enjoyment of good health at present although we have had severe colds and coughs this winter, Joseph has been almost sick for the last month but his cough is now better, our winter has been a very bad one on account of so much warm weather, we have had but one week of sleighing, there is perhaps  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch of snow now on the ground, Our cold weather began earlier in the fall than usual, which makes quite a demand for Hay, it is now \$4, per ton which is called high grain of all kinds are high her this season, wheat has been a dollar a bushel, but is not so high as that now corn is 57 cents per bushel, crops were very good never better and prices being high it makes farmers feel

first rate. The general topic of conversation here now is Railroad, I am not sure but each man will have one to his door. Brother Wm and wife and Brother Henry and wife visited me on Thursday, and helped us eat a large chicken pie, and if Mother and yourself and Brother Henry and Sister Charlotte and husband could have been here I should have thought my company was perfect, as it was, we had a very pleasant time; at Christmas we were all at Sister Lucias, but have never met at Brother H\_\_ Andrew is teaching this winter. Rosetta is at home as usual, Emilys babe begins to walk \_\_\_\_ Helen is with Fidelia now but she makes it her home at her Fathers she hears from her Husband often once in 2 weeks she has received \$150, and has lost \$100, the check did not come, She has a pretty babe and she loves it dearly, Mr Simond and wife will attend the Worlds Fair the coming Summer. My health is much better now than before, I swear George, my mouth is well, she that was Emily Houlton---Mrs Winship, is suffering sadly with a sore mouth she has a son 5 weeks old, Mrs Houlton lives with her, Emeline and family are well for aught I know, I don't often see her, we live five miles apart. I do feel very sorry that S\_ and husband are not here, I thought we should see them here sure in the fall, but hope Mr. Baker will better himself there; are they in Greensboro now and is there more than one Post Office in town, I have thought of writing to them for some time, but have delayed so doing but think I shall soon, when you see Surintha tell her I am waiting with all due patience for a letter from her, tell her I think she cannot have more to do than myself if she does she has to be pretty busy. How are all the good folks in Cabot this winter, should like to hear from and about them all, how does Fanny and her babies get along are either of Mr Lyfords girls married, or Mr Walbridge. Tell me about Elizabeth is she at home, has Laura Perkins any more babies did she pick as many raspberries last

fall as the year previous, where is James and Lydia my love to all the folks on your street—Suppose you would like to hear about the little one, the three oldest go to school, Henry has learned to read his a, b,c, this winter and George has learned to walk and talk some, we think he is pretty smart--, when you write the next time tell some one of the girls to write and put into the letter for I would like to hear from them and about their school and what they study, yesterday was Emma's birthday she sends much love to Abby and Grandma she often feels bad because she shall never see grandma, remember Joseph and myself in love to your husband and family, and accept a large share for yourself and Dear Mother, how I do wish I could visit you again the coming summer so to see my Dear Mother once more  
from your Sis in love Abigail

do answer this as soon as possible

I have never heard one word from Brother L., folks since I was there do tell me some things about Dear Sister Susan for I will keep dark don't never let her see any more of my letters you need not tell mother I have made any inquiry about them is Emily married to her Hube